





# *Best Wishes For The Holidays*

The Holiday Season is that special time --- a time to reflect upon the year's accomplishments.

1972 has been a very interesting year. You have helped the Company maintain its long-standing policy of serving our customers faithfully and courteously. Despite the challenges of a rapidly changing economy, rising costs of doing business, environmental concern and nuclear generation, this basic philosophy remains the cornerstone of the Company's corporate objective. Your continued dedication to this standard has certainly been instrumental in the reaching of our goals.

I would also like to take this opportunity to express appreciation to all Gulf Staters who contributed to the various United Way campaigns that ended recently. Like many of you, I was deeply involved in this year's drive in my community and became keenly aware of how important the successes of these campaigns are to the less fortunate among us. Knowing that we helped brighten the lives of others will certainly make our own holidays more enjoyable.

To each, thank you and best wishes for a safe and enjoyable holiday season.

*Sloan R. Smith*





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# How Many Holes Can A Woodpecker Peck . . .

*Question: Why do woodpeckers enjoy living in electric utility poles?*

*Answer: Because they can't find any all-electric trees!*

In all seriousness, it is doubtful that the answer to the above question will help to solve this particular problem. Yet the fact remains that woodpeckers annually cause thousands of dollars of damage to electric utility poles in the southern United States.

Obviously this problem prompts many electric utility companies, including GSU, to spend a considerable amount of time and money searching for ways to defeat these sharp-billed nuisances. Research has dispelled many old theories, and unearthed new ones that will hopefully lead to successful prevention of pole destruction by the feathered menaces.

## Theories - - Past and Present

In the past, there have been many theories as to why woodpeckers insist upon having homes in utility poles when there is an ample supply of trees nearby. Some researchers felt that pole conductors transmitted vibrations that the birds found attractive. This proved false when many poles were invaded during the period between their erection and the stringing of wire on them. Others felt that woodpeckers preferred the poles for safety from snakes - but again, no one could prove it. Even though creosote was reputed to be toxic to snakes, linemen have reported finding the reptiles curled inside woodpecker cavities. Many other theories were projected, but none held water.

Finally, after much head-scratching and teeth-gnashing, scientists came up with a reasonable explanation. It seems that utility poles make excellent lookout posts for territorial defense purposes. Woodpeckers, like most birds, protect a distinct nesting area during certain times of the year. They will not allow any other bird of the same species to infiltrate their private domain. Woodpeckers also defend a feeding territory in the winter when food is scarce. The poles make excellent places for spotting intruders, as well as making their presence known as a resident of a specified area.

This theory tends to explain the frequent attacks on replacement poles. The woodpeckers are attracted by the particular location, not the pole itself.



**This is a common sight to utility companies — as well as an expensive headache.**

## No Hope For the Young

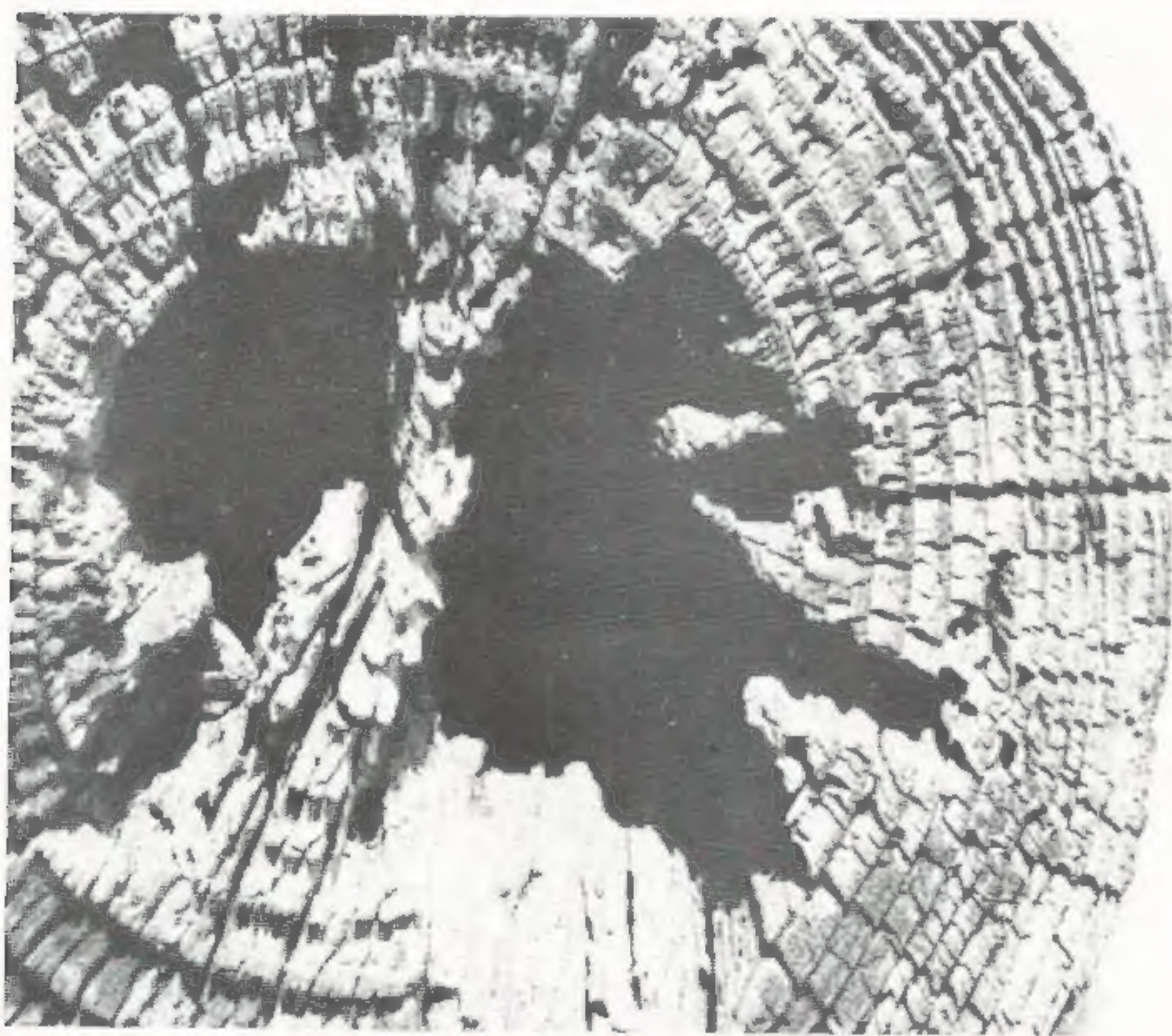
It is interesting to note that it is rare for a female woodpecker's young to survive in nests located in newly creosoted poles. Even though creosote fumes and chips have been proven deadly to the embryos, and the chicks never live more than three days, the mother bird pays no attention, continually laying her eggs in the new poles. This method of natural control seems like good news to electric utility companies, but it must be remembered that woodpeckers are the most valuable birds in the woods. Their diet consists mainly of insects in bark and wood, thus helping to prevent outbreaks that would kill trees and ruin logs. It's ironic that they could eventually destroy a utility pole that was cut from a tree that they once protected from insects. This seems to illustrate just one of the many cycles present in nature.



## Preventive Measures

Many preventive measures have been taken to keep the woodpecker from taking residence in utility poles. Mechanical scaring devices, decoy poles, chemicals and colored poles have all been tried with little or no success. At present, the use of wire mesh hardware cloth wrapped around the pole has proven most effective. But this method has certain drawbacks such as high cost, the possibility of arcing, and difficulty to linemen climbing the poles. A few exceptionally determined birds have even been known to tear away the mesh and make a nest anyway, although this is the exception, not the rule. There has also been some success in coating the poles with a smooth, durable material. This keeps the woodpeckers from gaining the secure toehold needed for inflicting wood-splintering blows.

Lewis Guthrie, director-engineering design in System Engineering, said that the hardware mesh has been the most effective means of deterring the birds to date, although it is not the perfect solution. "Occasionally," he said, "a lineman will break several strands of the hardware cloth while climbing a utility pole. Then some enterprising woodpecker will bend the ends of the wire down and the end result is a new cavity in the pole instead of the wire mesh. A few of the larger birds have even managed to peck completely through the hardware cloth in order to take up residence. The company is also using more steel poles to thwart the woodpeckers. There is a higher cost involved, but obviously steel has a much better survival rate than wood."



This shows how much damage a woodpecker can do to the inside of an electric utility pole.

## Conclusions

Even though certain methods of combating woodpeckers have shown promise, it is doubtful that any single, foolproof method will be found. Hopefully a combination of treatments will be perfected and incorporated into a pole-line management system. Protective methods will have to vary according to habitat and risk of attack, since effectiveness and economy are of utmost importance. Possibly the near future will bring us the long sought after solutions.

Maybe all-electric trees aren't such a bad idea after all.



Wire mesh is being used to protect the poles and this seems to be the most effective preventive measure to date.



# GSU NEWS



Fred Thornton (left), and Jim Stelly proudly display the sign signifying that Port Arthur and South Jefferson County were the first areas in the state to reach their goal in the United Community Services Campaign. The area raised a total of \$543,247 to date, or 104 per cent of the \$524,569 goal. Jim is sales superintendent of Port Arthur Division.

PORT ARTHUR and SOUTH JEFFERSON COUNTY

## First Again In Texas

Port Arthur and South Jefferson County have done it again.

For the second consecutive year, they were first in the state to reach a United Community Service Campaign goal. The announcement was made by Fred Thornton, general campaign chairman.

The area raised a total of \$543,247 to better the goal of \$524,569, or 104 per cent of the commitment. An even higher final total is expected, since many of the pledge cards in the field are unreported at the time of this announcement.

Jim Stelly, president of United Community Services, expressed his appreciation of the Board of Trustees and the community to the leaders in the campaign. "We feel that every citizen in South Jefferson County," he said, "can share our pride for the part he played in making us champions in Texas."



# Nuclear Exhibit Tours Texas

A traveling exhibit unit is currently visiting high schools throughout Texas, and has just completed a tour of our Texas service area. Over 25,000 students enjoyed the entertaining and informative show in our area. The one-man presentation, entitled "This Atomic World," is presented by Orlan Ihms of Texas A&M.

The program is sponsored by the United States Atomic Energy Commission and is presented by Texas A&M University in cooperation with Oak Ridge Associated Universities. It is concerned with the basic principles of atomic energy and its beneficial application. The role of the atom in agriculture, industry and medicine is explained, and the growing importance of atomic research is stressed.

Mr. Ihms is well-qualified for the job of presenting the program. He holds a bachelor of science degree and a master of education degree from Texas A&M University, and has received special training in nuclear science at Oak Ridge, Tennessee, the world-famous atomic research center. Mr. Ihms uses student participation in his demonstrations, and his ability to effectively communicate with the students makes learning an enjoyable process.



Orlan Ihms left, a Texas A&M graduate, makes one of his many "This Atomic World" presentations to a group of Vidor high school students. Mr. Ihms demonstrated the principle of static electricity with the help of a student (center), as the crowd watched with amusement. Our company and other Texas electric utilities sponsor the show through Texas A&M.

So often, when we are spoken to, we catch ourselves not quite understanding what was said. Using the inter-office directory as a guide, here is a story that would make us think "what did he say?"

Gentlemen, have you ever had a bad day at the **GOFF** course? Did your ball constantly land in the **BOENKER** and make you wish you had stayed at **HOLM**? You probably didn't even **KARAFF** you never saw your clubs again. And the possibility of **EAGLIN** a hole was ridiculous. When your wife finds out that you bet away all the money that you **ERNST** last week, **SCHILHAB** a fit and probably break a **BONO** in your head, wear out her **VOGEL** cords screaming at you, and say how much **RISHER** you'd be if you **NUSOM** ways to lower your score on the course. Not to mention crying for an hour, which will cause her **MASCARELLA** to run. It's your own fault that she won't **SPEEG** to you for a week.

Obviously you have only one choice, so do yourself a **FABRE**. **GARON**tee your wife that you'll stay home next weekend and **SIMONEAUX** the car, clean up the garage that's starting to look like a **THIGPEN**, fix your son's broken-down **MOTL**cycle, and fix the wife a **CUPPER** coffee every morning when she awakens. Maybe this will keep your head out of the **GILLEN**TINE. And just to be on the safe side, you **AUDILET** her **DRAPER** shoulders with that new mink stole she wants. That's **DENAI**S thing to do.

The Electrical Week newsletter recently reported that the Senate subcommittee studying energy policy will issue several reports in the near future. These reports will take a dim view of conservation as a means of alleviating energy problems.

One source has indicated that the committee was unable to discover any method of conserving energy that would affect shortages; diligent conservation measures could trim energy use by only 1% per year.



## Thrift Plan

Purchases of Gulf States Utilities Company stock made by the Trustee during October, 1972 covering employee deductions and Company contributions through September, 1972 were as follows:

7,958 shares of Common Stock at a total cost of \$162,466.36 or an average cost per share of \$20.415.

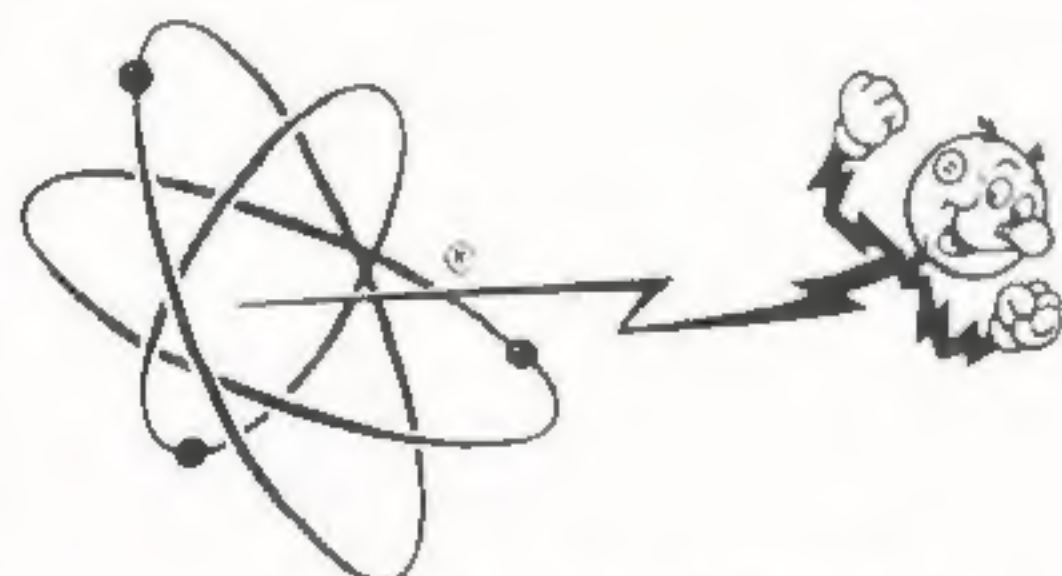
234 shares of \$4.40 Preferred Stock at a total cost of \$14,004.27 or an average cost per share of \$59.847.

The Trustee deposited \$55,191.23 with the Savings Department of the First Security National Bank of Beaumont.

## REDDY RUNS CLEAN

Federal agencies have initiated testing programs on electric-powered vehicles as a means of cutting down on the pollution now given off by conventional vehicles.

Lansing, Michigan is now testing six electric buses under a grant from the U. S. Department of Transportation. The U. S. Postal Service is testing electric delivery vehicles on the West Coast.



### DID YOU KNOW?

.... that health risks from nuclear power plants are not as great as from oil-fired plants, according to a report by a University of California team of experts. The experts say that nuclear plants average less than one-tenth the risk of oil-fired plants. The study was undertaken to guide the state's long-range planning on how best to meet the power needs of a growing population.

# Ad With Appeal



## Who cares about a Brown Thrasher?

*Brown Thrashers are one of 199 different types of migratory birds that pass through the Louisiana Mississippi Valley. Many people could care less about their migratory habits or their welfare.*

*We do care.*

*That's why we've commissioned ecological experts from LSU to study the site of our planned nuclear power plant at St. Francisville, and to recommend how the plant can most naturally merge with the environment.*

*We want to make sure that Brown Thrashers, along with other birds, can nest or continue their migratory habits near River Bend station without being disturbed.*

*After all, Brown Thrashers have a right to live here, too!*

**We do.**

GULF STATES UTILITIES COMPANY



The company is currently running newspaper advertisements concerning our interest in the environment, with special emphasis on the St. Francisville, La. area, site of our first nuclear power plant. This particular ad has received recognition from the public as being an attractive and informative piece of work. For example, one lady colored the ad and sent it to us, commenting that she supported the ad and was very fond of birds.



# Double Meanings

The terminology of the business world includes certain words and phrases that sometimes have more than one meaning. This reprint from the Baton Rouge Record will hopefully clarify some of those "double meanings."

**A project.** (Any assignment that can't be completed by one telephone call.)

**To expedite.** (To compound confusion with commotion.)

**Coordinator.** (The guy who has a desk between two expeditors.)

**Consultant** (or expert). (Any ordinary guy more than 50 miles from home.)

**Channels.** (The trail left by inter-office memos.)

**To activate.** (To make carbon copies and add more names to the memo.)

**To implement a program.** (Hire more people and expand the office.)

**It is in process.** (So wrapped up in red tape that the situation is almost hopeless.)

**We will look into it.** (By the time the wheel makes full turn, we assume you will have forgotten about it, too.)

**Under consideration.** (Never heard of it.)

**Under active consideration.** (We're looking for it in the files.)

**Clarification.** (To fill in the background with so many details that the foreground goes underground.)

**A meeting.** (A mass mulling by master-minds.)

**A conference.** (A meeting where projects are expedited—after clarification.)

**To negotiate.** (To seek a meeting of minds without the knocking together of heads.)

**With modification.** (Will be shipped to you in kit form. Put together—if you can—yourself. Glue optional.)

**Re-orientation.** (Getting used to working again.)

**Reliable Source.** (The guy you just met.)

**Informed source.** (The guy who told the guy you just met.)

**Unimpeachable source.** (The guy who started the rumor originally.)

BATON ROUGE

## Worthy Presents Lifesaving Awards



Left to right: Rodney D. Boudreaux, Nolan P. Daigle, J. F. Worthy, David Harris, Randolph A. Anding, John G. Aime.

The Gulf States Utilities President's Lifesaving Award has been presented to Nolan P. Daigle, Randolph A. Anding and David Harris. This award, given for saving the life of John Aime, utility foreman in the Line Department in Baton Rouge, was presented on October 4 by J. F. Worthy, vice president-Baton Rouge Division.

Anding is a lineman third class and Daigle is a utility foreman. Harris is an employee of Our Lady of the Lake Hospital.

On August 17, Aime was assisting Daigle's crew when he came in contact with an energized conductor while working out of an aerial basket. Aime was unconscious when the men removed him from the basket. Daigle and Anding immediately began the lifesaving techniques learned from the company's safety training program.

Harris, who was painting a house across the street from the accident, came to the crew's assistance. He, too, had received similar training from his employer.

Aime was revived and hospitalized for a short time for observation and treatment.

**We are making a survey.** (We need more time to think of an answer.)

**Will advise you in due course.** (If we figure it out, we'll let you know.)

**To note and initial.** (Let's spread the responsibility for this.)

**See me, or let's discuss.** (Come down to my office, I'm lonesome.)

**Let's get together on this.** (I'm assuming you're as confused as I am.)

**Give us the benefit of your thoughts.** (We'll listen to what you have to say as long as it doesn't interfere with what we've already decided to do.)



# SERVICE AWARDS

## TEN YEARS

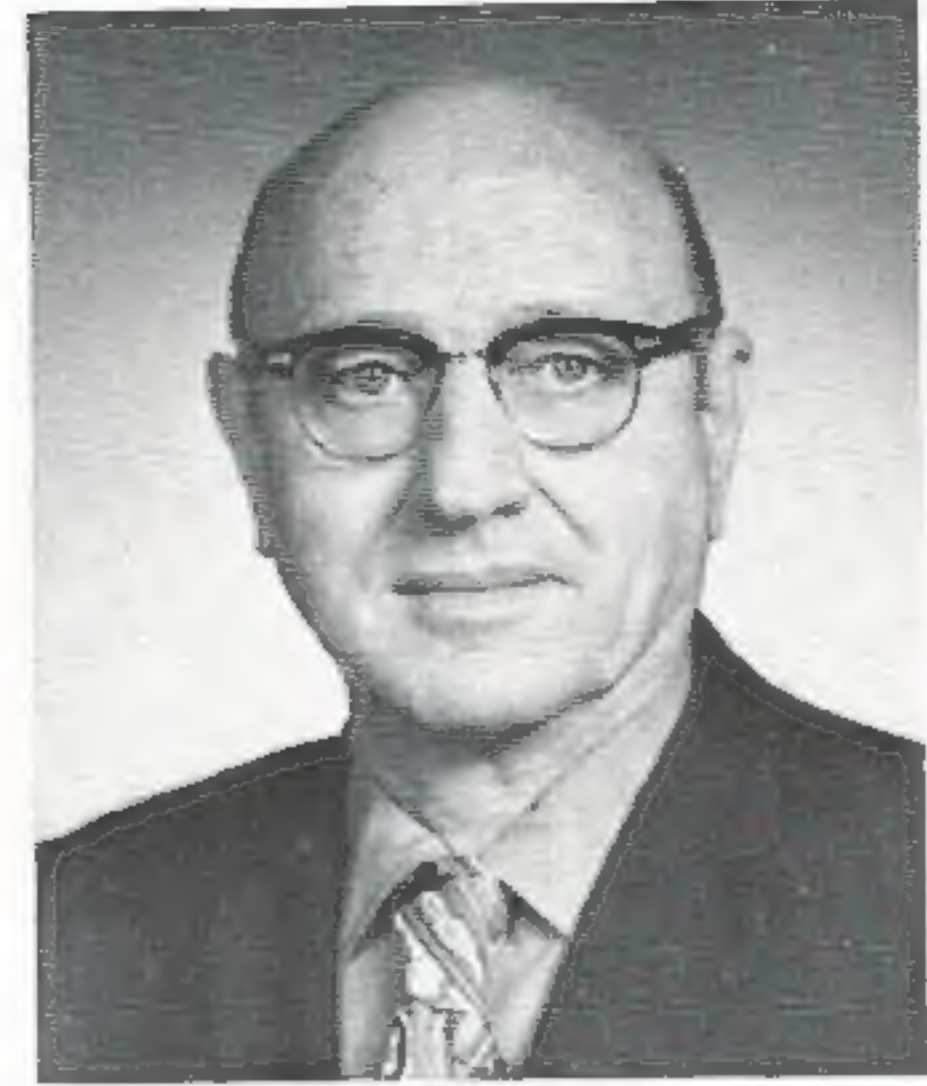


**Ronald Blackburn**  
Distribution  
Baton Rouge



**William I. Bloodworth**  
Treasury  
Beaumont

## FORTY YEARS



**W. P. Gautreaux**  
Gas  
Baton Rouge

## TWENTY YEARS



**Dudley Benoit**  
Distribution  
Port Arthur



**A. H. DeWailly**  
Distribution  
Baton Rouge



**Volz D. Elliott, Jr.**  
Operations  
Cleveland



**T. E. Hernandez**  
Production  
Baton Rouge



**Bobby Hilborn**  
Distribution  
Baton Rouge



**Andrew Landry**  
Distribution  
Lake Charles



**Floyd T. Langlois**  
Production  
Beaumont



**Alice Maldonado**  
I.D.S.  
Beaumont



**James M. Robinson**  
Production  
Baton Rouge



**Earl Sandlin**  
System Engineering  
Beaumont



# Deaths



**B. J. Borque**



**J. L. LeBlanc**



**Willie Dixon, Jr.**



**Grace Pipes Brooks**



**Charles R. Goodman**

**Bernice J. Borque**, substation mechanic-1st class in Beaumont, died October 18 in a Beaumont hospital.

Mr. Borque, a Vidor resident, was employed by the company in July of 1944 as a helper in the Beaumont Line Department. He was promoted to substation mechanic-4th class in June of 1946. Mr. Borque progressed until he became a substation mechanic-1st class in 1949, the position held at his death.

Mr. Borque, a China, Texas native, spent all of his time with the company in Beaumont. He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Helen Borque, Vidor; his parents, Mr. and Mrs. August Borque of Beaumont; a son, Kenneth Borque of Beaumont, two daughters, Miss Patricia Borque, Beaumont, and Mrs. Myra Boutwell, Long Beach, Miss.; three brothers, two sisters and four grandchildren.

**Mrs. Grace Pipes Brooks**, retired Beaumont home service advisor, died November 8 in St. Elizabeth Hospital in Beaumont.

Mrs. Brooks, employed by the company in 1937, spent 27 years as a home service advisor, conducting many public cooking schools and demonstrations, including television appearances.

The Abbeville, La. native married Edward Chachere Brooks in 1916. Mrs. Brooks was a talented mezzo soprano, studying voice in New York from 1923 to 1927, ending her singing career to devote more time to her family.

She is survived by two sons, Edward C. Brooks, Jr. of Washington, D.C., and U. S. Congressman Jack Brooks of Beaumont; one daughter, Mrs. Mary Brooks Manry of Houston, and six grandchildren. Her husband died in Beaumont in 1937.

**Willie Dixon, Jr.**, retired T&D employee from Lake Charles, died October 14.

Mr. Dixon, a New Orleans native, was employed in February 1947 as a laborer in Lake Charles. In March 1950, he was promoted to car washer, the position he held until retirement in May 1970.

Mr. Dixon was in the Army from 1943-45, and was employed at the Lake Charles Air Force Base for a brief time before coming to GSU. All of his time with the company was spent in Lake Charles.

**J. L. LeBlanc**, Beaumont T&D employee, died September 27 in Baptist Hospital in Beaumont.

Mr. LeBlanc, a Sunset, La. native, attended Hebert High School in Beaumont, then served in the army from 1942-45 before coming to GSU in October 1948. He was employed as a laborer in the line department, then was later transferred first to the garage, then to the accounting department. All of his time was spent in Transmission and Distribution.

**Charles R. Goodman**, retired Beaumont civil engineer, died September 30.

Mr. Goodman, an Orange, Texas native, attended school in Orange before coming to work in 1925 for the Orange Ice, Light and Water Company in July 1925, which was purchased by GSU several months later. He came to Beaumont in December 1925 as civil engineer in the company's engineering department, the position held at his retirement.

Mr. Goodman received his civil engineering certificate through extension work from International Correspondence School.



# People On The Move



Bobby Willis



R. D. Broussard



George Irvin



Mike Hillhouse



Thomas W. Ashley



Jimmylu Syme



Johnny Babin



William Douglas



Lyle Gerac



D. N. Corgey



Jimmy Grimes



Katharine Amerine



Mark Walton



Frank Groves



John E. Naylor, Jr.

Donald N. Corgey, an 18-year veteran of the company, has been named relay foreman-system in Beaumont.

Corgey began his career as an engineering helper in the system engineering department in 1954. He is married to the former Myrtle Hall of Burkeville, Tex., and they are members of St. Luke's Methodist Church.

Corgey is a graduate of South Park High School in Beaumont, and attended Lamar University.

Mark E. Walton, formerly a chemist at Louisiana Station in Baton Rouge, has been transferred to Willow Glen Station. Walton has been at Louisiana Station since his employment in 1968.

Walton is a native of Baton Rouge and a 1968 graduate of Louisiana State University. He holds a B.S. degree in chemistry and physics.

He is a three year veteran of the Air Force having served from 1959 to 1962.

Jimmylu Syme, former Beaumont departmental clerk, has been promoted to administrative assistant.

Mrs. Syme, was employed in 1960 as a clerk in the system treasury department. In 1967 she was made a departmental clerk in information and data services.

A native of Belton, Texas, Mrs. Syme and her husband Weldon make their home in Vidor. They have one daughter, Debbie, a senior at Vidor High School.



**Bobby J. Willis**, former purchasing agent, and **Raymond D. Broussard**, an engineer formerly in engineering planning, have assumed new responsibilities within the main office in Beaumont.

Willis has been transferred to accounting operations as supervisor-plant accounting in the System Treasury Department.

A native of Bogalusa, La., Willis has been with the company since Feb. of 1962. He has worked within System Treasury in various classifications, and was promoted to purchasing agent in 1969.

He is a 1962 graduate of LSU with a degree in business administration. Willis is a veteran of the U.S. Army, and is married to the former Geraldine Altazin of Baton Rouge. The Willis' have three children, Stephen (18), Tammy Jo (10) and Toni Jo (5).

Broussard goes from engineering planning to the System Production Department. He is a native of Orange, and has been with the company since 1956.

Broussard is a 1956 graduate of Texas A&M with a bachelor of science degree in electrical engineering. He is a three-year veteran of the Air Force and is married to the former Luella Bodin of Bridge City. The Broussards have five children, Jerry (16), Cynthia (14), Alan (13), Charles (12), and Kenneth (9).

An active scout and church worker, Broussard is Scoutmaster of Troop 203 of Vidor, and committee chairman of Explorer Post 203. He is a member of the Vidor Council of the Knights of Columbus.

**Michael M. Hillhouse**, engineer in the System Production Department, Beaumont, has been transferred to Sabine Station in Bridge City.

A native of Colorado City, Tex., Hillhouse joined the company in August of 1970 as an engineer in the System Production Department.

Hillhouse is a 1970 graduate of Texas A&M with a B.S. degree in electrical engineering. He is married to the former Diana Lynn Dooley of College Station, Tex.

He is a member of the Hammerhead Scubba Diving Club of Beaumont, and attends First Baptist Church of Beaumont.

**Leonard P. Bourne**, former engineer in the Transmission and Distribution Department in Pt. Arthur, has been transferred to Beaumont as an engineer in the System Engineering planning department.

Bourne joined the company in 1968 as a design construction engineer in Beaumont. He was transferred to T&D in Pt. Arthur in 1970.

A native of Little Rock, Ark., Bourne is a 1968 graduate of the University of Arkansas with a B.S. degree in electrical engineering.

**Frank O. Groves**, assistant purchasing agent-Beaumont, has been promoted to purchasing agent.

Groves, a native of Boling, Texas, joined the company in 1967 as assistant purchasing agent in the system treasury department in Beaumont. He is a 1961 graduate of Sam Houston State University with a B.B.A. degree in business administration.

An active civic worker, Groves is a charter member and past president of the Lumberton Lions Club, and a charter member and past president of the County Lane Town Council. He and his wife, the former Carol Tassin of Alexandria, La., reside in Silsbee with their two children, Ruth Marie and Regina Lynn.

**Jimmie L. Grimes**, a 19-year veteran of the company, has been transferred to the system engineering planning department and promoted to power systems coordinator in Beaumont.

Grimes formerly had been EDP scheduling and control coordinator in the information and data services department.

A Nederland native, Grimes is a graduate of Nederland High School, and is currently working on his B.S. degree in computer science at Lamar University. He is a veteran of nine years in the Army Reserve, a member of the Northwest Lions Club, past president of the Nederland Jr. Football League, vice president of the Nederland National Little League, and a member of the Trinity Presbyterian Church in Pt. Neches.

Grimes and his wife, the former Jane Alice Fish of Franklin, Pa., have four children; Mike, 17, Kelly, 14, Patrick, 13, and Casey, 7.

**Thomas W. Ashley**, former serviceman in the gas department in Baton Rouge, has been promoted to foreman-gas department, according to gas department operating superintendent, J. C. Spengler.

Ashley, a native of Crosley, Miss., has been with GSU since July of 1969 when he was employed as a helper in the gas department. He has worked in several gas department classifications since that time.

Ashley is a 1958 graduate of Crosley High School. He and his wife, Kathryn, have three children, Dolly Lynn, Tommy and Randy.

**Lyle P. Gerac**, former supervisor in Beaumont plant accounting, has been transferred to Port Arthur and promoted to division accounting supervisor.

Gerac is a native of Lafayette, La., and a 1962 graduate of the University of Southwestern Louisiana with a B.S. degree in business management. Gerac joined the company in 1964 as an accountant in general accounting, and was later transferred to the financial and regulatory reports section. He was later promoted to administrative assistant. Gerac was moved up to supervisor of accounts payable in 1968 prior to his promotion to supervisor-plant accounting in 1969.

Gerac is married to the former Marie Louise Braud of Gonzales, La., and they have three children, Phillip Martin, aged seven, Stephanie Anne, six, and Patrick Kevin, four.

**William H. Douglas**, former employee relations manager of BASF Wyandotte, has assumed the position of Director-Personnel Relations in Baton Rouge. The appointment was announced by William E. Heaner, vice president-personnel manager in Beaumont.

Douglas, formerly with GSU in personnel, has been at BASF Wyandotte in Baton Rouge since 1969, has previously been employed as assistant personnel manager for EasTex, Inc. in Silsbee, Tex.

A veteran of the Navy, Douglas is a graduate of Georgia Tech in Industrial Management and received his MBA degree from Lamar University. He is a native of Ga. He and his wife, the former D'Ann James, have one daughter.

(Continued on page 12)



## Retirements

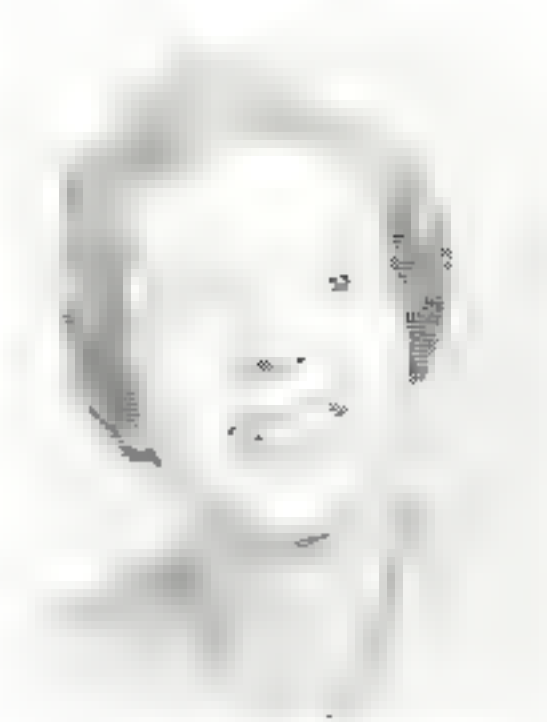
**Maxine H. Jones**, maid in Beaumont office, retires December 1 after more than 29 years with the company.

Mrs. Jones, a native of Rayburn, Texas, was employed by the company in March 1943. All of her time has been spent in the Beaumont office. She is a graduate of Charlton-Pollard High School in Beaumont and attended Prairie View College.

After her retirement, Mrs. Jones plans to spend her time with her husband Alvin, also a GSU retiree, and also visit relatives. She is a member of the Eastern Star, Liveoak Missionary Baptist Church, and has two stepchildren; Mrs. Frances Wright of Dallas and Mr. Robert Lee Jones of Houston.



Maxine Jones



Hope Barnett

**Mrs. Hope Barnett** retires December 1 after 26 years with the company.

Mrs. Barnett was employed in November 1946 as a customer accounting clerk in Lake Charles, the position she holds at retirement. All of her time with the company was spent in Lake Charles.

She is a native of Lake Charles, where she attended school before coming to GSU.

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### PEOPLE ON THE MOVE, Continued

**Johnnie A. Babin**, former garage mechanic, has been promoted to garage shop foreman in the transmission and distribution department in Lake Charles.

Babin, a native of Lake Charles, has been with GSU since 1948, and has progressed through various classifications of garage mechanic. He is a veteran of the Army having served as a sergeant in the Rainbow Division from 1943-45.

He is a graduate of LaGrange High School, and has undergone training at Sowela Technical Institute in Lake Charles, the Pittman Training School, the Asplundh Training School, International Training School, and the GMC Training School.

Babin is married to the former Carolyn Marie Cormier, and they have four children, Paula, a freshman at McNeese State University, Ralph, Tina Kay, and Rhonda Gail.

He is an active church worker and serves as the Training Union Counselor and Sunday School Director of Boulevard Baptist Church.

**Katharine S. Amerine**, former administrative assistant in Beaumont, has been promoted to EDP scheduling and controls coordinator.

Mrs. Amerine joined the company in 1964 in the system treasury department. In 1967 she was transferred to information and data services as a tabulating machine operator, and was promoted to administrative assistant in 1968.

She and her husband, Tom Amerine, have two children, Kay (15) and Ralph (8).

**John E. Naylor, Jr.**, former engineer in System Production at Sabine Station, has been transferred to Louisiana Station in Baton Rouge in Division Production.

He was born in Converse, La., and reared in Houston.

Naylor is a 1971 graduate of Louisiana State University with a B.S. degree in chemical engineering, and was employed by the company in October following his graduation.

Naylor is a bachelor, and a member of the Baptist Church.

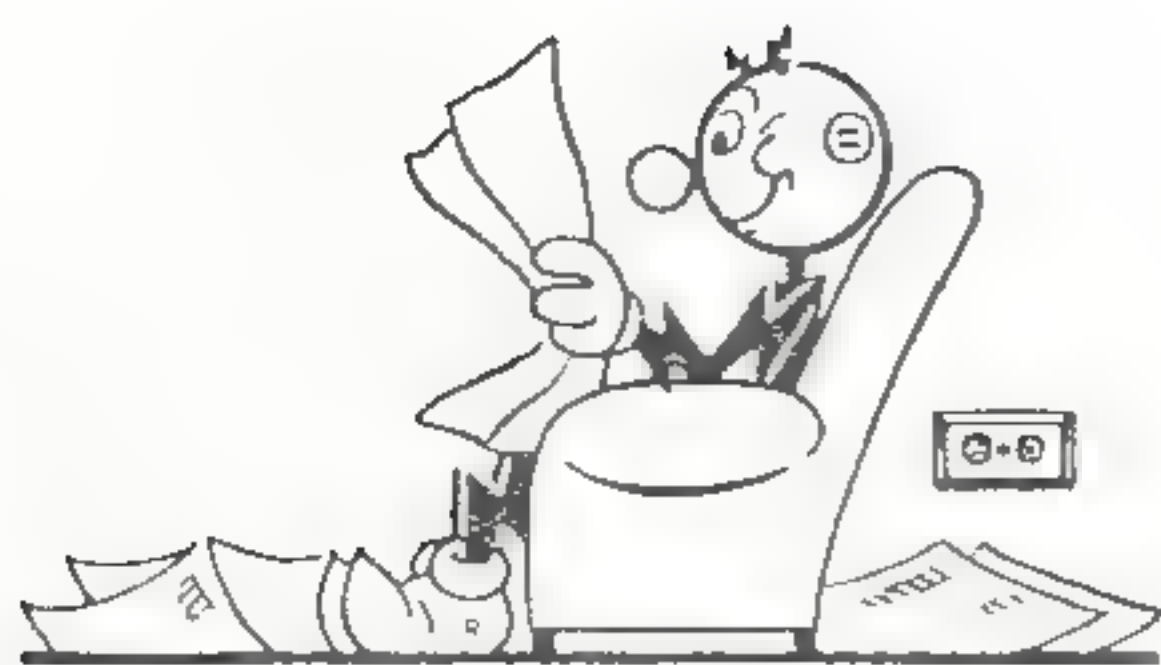
**George L. Irvin**, former division accounting supervisor in Port Arthur, has been transferred to Baton Rouge and promoted to division accounting supervisor.

Irvin, a Beaumont native, has been with the company since November of 1957. He is a veteran of the Army, and attended Lamar University.

Following his employment as a general clerk in customer accounting department in Beaumont, Irvin worked in the system billing department, the purchasing department and general accounts. He was promoted to assistant supervisor of stores accounting in Beaumont in 1965, and later to supervisor during the same year. In 1968 he was transferred to Port Arthur as division accounting supervisor.

Irvin is married to the former Jo Ann Ruff of Beaumont, and they have three children, George, Jr., Julie Lynn and Melissa Ann.





## NEWS FROM -

If you have any story you think is interesting and would like to see in PLAIN TALKS, just contact the reporter nearest you, and he (or she) will see that it gets to the editor. A complete list of the reporters and their location can be found on the first page of each Coffee Cup section.



George Irvin (center), Port Arthur accounting supervisor, recently transferred to Baton Rouge. Farewell gifts included a French dictionary, rod and reel, tackle box, book ends, and his wife Jo Ann (right) received a crystal dinner bell. George also received a drawing by Judy Wyche, Port Arthur clerk, depicting his leaving Port Arthur for Louisiana and "greener pastures." Randy McAlpine, Port Arthur division manager (left), presented the gifts to the Irvins. (from Sue Williams)

Emery Fruge, Lake Charles line foreman, hosted the Legal Secretaries Association of Louisiana meeting at the Chateau Charles September 16. Emery served the ladies as MC and entertained with magic tricks. (from Johanie Harris)



This is Melodi Maurine Clark, daughter of James R. Clark, equipment operator-Nelson Station. She was born February 7, and wanted Plain Talks to see her first suit of clothing-her birthday suit. (from The Editor)



Debbie Syme, a 17 year old high school senior, was recently named 1972 Vidor homecoming queen. She is a cheerleader and member of the National Honor Society. Her mother is Jimmyly Syme, administrative assistant-IDS. (from the Editor)



## REPORTERS

If you have any news for "Plain Talks," simply send the information to one of the following local reporters. They will be happy to assist you in getting the material to the editor.

**BATON ROUGE:** Margie Force (T&D), T. Boone Chaney (T&D), Melanie Hima (T&D), Charles L. Miller (T&D), Jack Gautreaux (T&D), James W. Bello (T&D), Beverly Hull (Gas), Opal Temple (Acct.), Robert Graves (T&D), Susan Wilks, Kelton Whitehead.

**BEAUMONT:** Bill Toups (S.C.), Barbara Lindsey, Carolyn Motl (T&D), Ann Ogden, Fdy Waltmon, Linda Marks.

**CALVERT:** Janis E. Wilganowski.

**CLEVELAND:** Pat Jones, Edd Mitchell.

**CONROE:** Frances Elliot.

**DENHAM SPRINGS:** Lenelle Juban.

**GONZALES:** Billy I ortenberry.

**HUNTSVILLE:** Dewey Allbritton.

**JENNINGS:** Earl Mayfield.

**LAFAYETTE:** Bobbie Denais.

**LAKE CHARLES:** Johnnie Harris (T&D), Janel Falloway.

**LA. STATION:** Leslie Jeansonne.

**LEWIS CREEK:** James Veatch.

**MADISONVILLE:** Wanda H. Tinsley.

**NAVASOTA:** Betty Dickschat.

**NECHES STATION:** Gene Russell, Hazel Higginbotham.

**NELSON STATION:** Martha Caldwell.

**ORANGE:** Davie Carpenter.

**PORT ALLEN:** Adele Vavasseur.

**PORT ARTHUR:** Sue Williams, Lorraine Dunham (S.C.)

**SABINE STATION:** Kathleen Fuller.

**SILSBEE:** Maxie Bell.

**SULPHUR:** Pearl Darbonne.

**WILLOW GLEN:** Dora Landaiche.

**WOODVILLE:** Alene Waggoner.

**ZACHARY:** Myra Kirby.

(Editor's Note: If any of the above reporters are no longer reporting or with the company, we would appreciate knowing about it. This holds true also if any reporter's name has been omitted.)





Pictured is Don Conner, former Sr. Engineer Assistant, at the Farewell Party given for him by his fellow employees. Don was presented with an Industrial Vacuum Cleaner to be used in his new venture of self-employment. Don invited everyone to come by and see him, especially when cabinet work is needed. (from Johnnie Harris)



Pictured is James H. Varnado, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. James Varnado, Sr. James graduated from Washington High School in Lake Charles, then went on to Southern University in Baton Rouge to earn his BA degree. After this, he taught in Packanack, New Jersey in Public school system. He then earned his Masters Degree from New York University. In August of '72 he became a counselor at Howard University in Washington, D.C. He plans to start working on his Doctor's Degree in February of 1973. His father, Mr. Varnado, Sr., is employed at the Lake Charles Service Center. (from Johnnie Harris)



This happy beauty is four-month old Lisa Michele Hester, daughter of Roy and Marie Hester. Roy, Tax Department-Beaumont, says he's having a hard time trying to keep up with this bundle of energy and happiness. (from the Editor)



Sheila Ann Hanks and Richard Allen Deville were united in marriage Saturday, October 7, at St. Henry's Church in Lake Charles. Sheila is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Columbus Hanks. Mr. Hanks is a Division Operator at Lake Charles Ryan Street Office. After honeymooning in Beaumont and Houston, the couple will be at home at 325 Helen Street in Lake Charles. (from Johnnie Harris)



Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Fabien J. Daigle on their 25th wedding anniversary. In addition, they are the lucky parents of five children-two boys and three girls. Mr. Daigle is a utility foreman in the Baton Rouge Substation Department (from Melanie Hima)



This handsome young man with the winning smile is Timothy Lance Breeden, the first grandchild of Harry Breeden, repairman 1st class-Louisiana Station. The picture was taken when Timothy was 7 months old. (from Leslie Jeansonne)





On October 5 the Beaumont Gulf Staters held a wedding reception for Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Wynne. Mr. Wynne is an assistant treasurer in the Beaumont Division. The couple were married September 22 at the First United Methodist Church in Beaumont. The bride is the former Maxine Tucker of Nederland. (from Marilyn Jones)



These pretty members of the French High School Buffalo Belles Drill Team have more than just their drill team in common. All have fathers or mothers who work for the company in the main office in Beaumont. From left to right are: Donna Schumacher, daughter of W. J. "Shu" Schumacher, chief system operator; Barbara Wright, daughter of Naomi Wright, records department; Cindy Loggins, daughter of Sabine Station superintendent Ed Loggins, and Ann Heaner, daughter of Bill Heaner, vice president-personnel manager of the company. (from "Shu")



A certain Plain Talks reporter at Choctaw Service Center in Baton Rouge is all smiles, and has good reason to be smiling. Fay Hebert, T&D department clerk, is leaving the company to have a baby, and fellow employees recently gave her a going-away party. She was presented with a crib rocker that will certainly come in handy in the near future. Fay plans to return to work after the joyous event. (from Susan Wilks)



S. W. (Benny) McSwain, husband of Linda McSwain (T&D Engineering-Beaumont), bagged this 175 pound wild Mouflon ram near San Antonio, Texas. Benny was on horseback when he dropped his prize. The McSwains barbecued a roast from the ram and reported it to be superb. (from Carolyn Motl)



R. M. "Buck" Stone, substation operator-Conroe, and his wife were honored at a retirement party on October 3 in the Conroe office. Mr. Stone (holding jar) has been with the company for 34 years. He received a rod and reel, and jig saw, and Mrs. Stone (bottom right) was given a mug tree. Mr. Stone was known for keeping the office coffee shop supplied with homemade hot pickles, and as a reminder, he was given a gallon jar of raw cucumbers, carrots and a jalepeno pepper. (from Bobbie Burke)





Meet Carol Anne Foster as she appeared on the front page of the Midcounty Chronicle Newspaper. She was born on July 28, and her parents are Harold and Nell Foster. Harold is in the T&D department in Port Arthur. (from Loraine Dunham)



H. T. "Buck" Buckalew (accounting supervisor-Lafayette) proudly displays the plaque recently awarded him. The inscription reads "1971-72 President's Award for Uncommon Dedication to the Hub City Rifle and Pistol Club." Buck has been a member for six years and is serving a third term as vice-president. (from Bobbie Denais)



San Antonio recently held its annual Texas Folklore Festival, with various cultures of the world being represented. Port Arthur GSUers attended the Festival, presenting Cajun cooking, crawfish races and a French band. Company employees from left to right are: W. T. Oliver-Port Arthur Chamber of Commerce, James Fernandez-residential sales representative, and Forrest Elkins-commercial sales representative. The man on the right is from the San Antonio Chamber of Commerce. (from Sue Williams)



Dorothy Parker, former customer clerk in the Orange Accounting Department, was given a shower when she left the company to start a family. Each girl in the department gave her a gift, and all the employees together gave Dorothy a play pen for the baby. (from The Editor)





Mrs. Pam Burns, home service advisor in Lake Charles, shares some of her favorite recipes with us this month. Pam is a graduate of McNeese State University, and has a degree in Home Economics in Business and Homemaking. She started with the company shortly after graduation. Pam's husband is Charles W. Burns, a chemical engineer with PPG Industries. The recipes Pam has selected will add that special something to mealtime during the holiday season.

### Beef Chop Suey

- 1 - round steak  
(cut into small strips)
- 2 large onions - cut in cubes
- 2 large peppers - cut in cubes
- 1 - 2 cups celery - cut in cubes
- 1 can mushrooms (chopped or slice)
- 1 can bean sprouts
- 1/4 - 1/2 cup soy sauce
- 1 tablespoon cornstarch
- 1/4 teaspoon lemon pepper seasoning

Fry the meat until brown. Add onions, pepper and celery. Cover and cook until wilted, add mushrooms, bean sprouts, soy sauce, 1/2 cup (or more) water, lemon pepper seasoning and cornstarch. Cover and cook until all is hot. Serve over rice or chow mein fried noodles. Serves 4 - 6.

## From Pam's Kitchen

### Broccoli Casserole

- 2 pkgs. frozen chopped broccoli  
(cooked per instructions)
- 1 tube Ritz crackers (crushed)
- 1/4 lb. velveeta cheese (melted)
- 2 sticks oleo

Drain cooked and seasoned broccoli; put in casserole. Melt one stick oleo and pour over crushed Ritz crackers. Cover broccoli with crackers. Pour 1/4 lb. melted velveeta over crackers. Melt the other stick of oleo and pour over entire mixture. Bake 30 minutes in 350 degree oven.

### Rum Cake

- 1 yellow cake mix
- 1 pkg. instant vanilla pudding
- 4 eggs
- 1/2 cup salad oil
- 1/2 cup water
- 1/2 cup rum
- 1/2 cup chopped pecans

Mix first six ingredients well for two minutes. Sprinkle pecans over greased tube or bundt pan. Pour in batter and bake in 325 degree oven till done (about 40 minutes).

### Glaze

- 1/2 stick butter or oleo
- 1/2 cup water
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1 oz. rum

Boil first three ingredients one minute. Add rum. Remove cake from pan and make holes in top with fork. Pour glaze over cooled cake.

### S100 Strawberry Cake

- 1 pkg. strawberry jello
- 2 small or 1 large pkg. strawberries
- 1 pkg. graham crackers (30 crackers)
- dash of salt
- 1/4 cup butter
- 1/2 cup chopped pecans
- 3 eggs
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 large brick Philadelphia  
Cream Cheese
- dash of salt
- 2 cups (1 pint) sour cream

Dissolve one package of strawberry jello in 1 cup boiling water; add two small packages of strawberries to jello and add dash of salt. (Set aside.)

Make crumbs and add 1/4 cup melted butter and 1/2 cup chopped pecans. Press in 9 x 9 x 2" pan.

In electric mixer, beat eggs, sugar, and cream cheese. Add dash of salt. Pour over crumbs and bake at 325 degrees for 30 - 45 minutes until firm. Remove from oven and let cool completely. Then pour strawberry mixture over and chill in refrigerator overnight (preferably 24 hours). Cut in squares.

### Shrimp Casserole

Preheat oven 350 degrees.

- Melt a stick of oleo in the bottom of an oblong baking dish. Mix together:
- 2 lbs. peeled and deveined shrimp
- 1 can cream of celery soup
- 1 can onion soup
- 1 cup raw rice
- 1 can water
- Seasoning - red pepper and salt to taste

Pour in baking dish and place in oven uncovered. Stir when it comes to a boil and then let continue to cook for 30 to 40 minutes. Serves 6.



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## Prevent Accidents

Careful attention to the following Christmas fire safety recommendations will help keep the holiday a safe and happy one:

**TREE:** Select a firm, fresh one, and put it at once in a cool place with its base in water. Before setting it up, cut about an inch off the base to help the tree absorb water, then place the tree in a sturdy stand containing water. Be sure the water level stays above the cut -- check it daily. Locate the tree away from heat and where it won't block exits. Take it down as soon as possible after Christmas -- the more it dries out, the more of a hazard it becomes. Don't rely on do-it-yourself flameproofing treatments.

**LIGHTING:** Never use lighted candles on a tree or near any evergreen decorations. Check sets of electric lights closely, for worn insulation, broken plugs, loose bulb sockets, and use only sets with Underwriters' Laboratories (UL) or Canadian Standards Association (CSA) label. Use extension cords sparingly. Never hang sets of lights on a metallic artificial tree -- to avoid shock hazard, use only indirect spot lighting on such a tree, which should carry the UL label if it has a built-in electrical system. Turn off all indoor tree and decorative lights when leaving the house or retiring for the night. Outdoor lights should have special wiring.

**DECORATIONS:** Use materials which are non-combustible, such as glass and asbestos, or which are flame-retardant. Keep natural evergreens and polystyrene foam decorations away from candles, fireplaces, other open flames. Be sure holiday costumes and masks, such as Santa suits and whiskers and children's pageant outfits, are flame-proofed.

**WRAPPINGS:** Pick them up while opening gifts and put into covered trash containers. Never burn wrappings, cartons, etc., in the fireplace.

**GIFTS:** To meet safety standards, electric toys should carry UL or CSA label.